

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (ORIGINAL) A utility consumption control network system for controlling consumption of units of a resource provided by a utility, comprising:
 - a communications network accessible by the utility;
 - a gateway connecting to the communications network, including,
 - an operating system;
 - a user interface;
 - at least one application transmitting and receiving data through the utility consumption control network, processing the data and providing the data to the user interface;
 - a user interface control mechanism selecting portions of the user interface;
 - a device in communication with the utility consumption control network, the device consuming units of the resource provided by the utility; and
 - an adapter in communication with the device, translating data sent to and from the device on the communications network into a protocol for communication with the gateway.
2. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a utility meter configured for automated reading; and
 - a utility meter adapter in communication with the utility meter, translating a signal containing usage data from the utility meter and transmitting the usage data to the gateway.
3. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 1, wherein the gateway is connected to a wide area network to provide access by the utility.

4. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 3, further comprising:

a computing platform operatively connected to the wide area network, the gateway configured to send and receive data through the wide area network from the computing platform.

5. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 1 wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface.

6. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 5 wherein the user interface control mechanism is at least one input button selecting menus for the graphical user interface.

7. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 1 wherein, the device is a thermostat in communication with a climate control unit, and the thermostat is in communication with the communications network, whereby the thermostat transmits temperature data to the gateway and receives command signals from the gateway.

8. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 1 wherein, the gateway further includes a thermostat for monitoring an ambient temperature data, and the thermostat is in communication with a climate control unit, whereby the gateway transmits commands to the climate control unit.

9. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 1 further comprising:

a thermostat reporting and monitoring temperatures; and

a climate control unit, in communication with the thermostat, treating an ambient airspace.

10. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 9 wherein the climate control unit treats the ambient airspace by at least one of heating, cooling and humidifying/dehumidifying.

11. (ORIGINAL) The utility consumption control network system of claim 1 wherein the resource provided by the utility is at least one of electric, water and gas.

Please add claims 12-20 as follows:

12. (NEW) A method for managing a network controlling consumption of units of a resource provided by a utility, comprising:

receiving a demand-response event request over a wide area network from the utility to a gateway in communication with a local network, the demand response event being a state change for an operational resource consuming device;

forwarding the demand-response event request through the local network to a translator for the operational resource consuming device,

translating the request into a native format for the operational resource consuming device;

receiving and storing post-demand response event data from the operational resource consuming device; and

forwarding the post demand-response event data through the wide area network to the utility, the utility analyzing the post demand-response event data to maximize efficiency and cost savings by adjusting output of the resource.

13. (NEW) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

translating usage data from a utility meter into a protocol for communication with the gateway; and

transmitting the usage data periodically through the wide area network to the utility.

14. (NEW) The method of claim 12 further comprising:
 - utilizing an application resident on the gateway to control at least one resource consuming device, the interface providing a user with a navigable graphical interface to initiate a state change of the operational resource consuming device.
15. (NEW) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
 - using a mobile computing device containing the application as the gateway.
16. (NEW) The method of claim 12 further comprising:
 - receiving operational data from the operational resource consuming device;
 - comparing the data to a rules set; and
 - transmitting a state change command to the operational resource consuming device when a rule defined in the rule set is satisfied.
17. (NEW) A monitor and control network for maximizing efficient use of a unit of a resource provided by a utility comprising:
 - at least one operational resource consuming device;
 - a gateway having application means for controlling the operational resource consuming device;
 - networking means for connecting the resource consuming device to the gateway for transmitting and receiving operational data;
 - translation means for translating the operational data into a protocol for communication with the gateway; and
 - means for communicating a demand-response event request over a wide area network to the gateway.
18. (NEW) The monitor and control network of claim 17, further comprising:
 - means for transmitting usage data from a utility meter to the gateway.

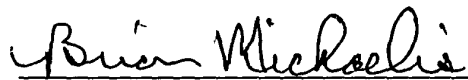
19. (NEW) The monitor and control network of claim 17, wherein
the operational resource consuming device includes climate-control means for
treating an ambient airspace.
20. (NEW) The monitor and control network of claim 17, wherein
the resource provided by the utility is selected from the group consisting of: gas,
water and electricity.

CONCLUSION

The amendments herein add no new matter. The specification, as originally filed, fully supports the newly added claims which further emphasize Applicants' invention. This preliminary amendment has been filed within the time period as set forth and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.115 (b)(2)(i). The Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned if he believes such would facilitate furtherance of the prosecution of the present application.

Should any fee be missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Account No. 50-0369.

Respectfully submitted,



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